

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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STILWELL'S BILL CREATES ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Russ Stilwell's (D-Boonville) legislation that would create an Indiana Abraham Lincoln bicentennial commission was voted out of the Indiana House today. The vote on House Bill 1540 was 93-0. It will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

The commission would be responsible for honoring Abraham Lincoln and educating Indiana residents on his life and achievements. Members would also plan and implement bicentennial celebrations for Lincoln's birthday. The bicentennial anniversary of the 16th president's birth is February 12, 2009.

"Many Hoosiers are not aware that President Lincoln spent a majority of his youth right here in southern Indiana," said Stilwell. "In recognition of the 200-year anniversary of his birth date, the commission created through this legislation would educate citizens about his life here in our state and the contributions this great man made to both Indiana and the country."

Twenty individuals would be appointed to the newly created commission. Of the members, four would be state senators and four would be state representatives. The governor or his designee would act as the chair of the commission.

Stilwell pointed out the irony that this bill passed on President's Day, the same day that House Republicans approved a state budget that contains only \$1 for the Young Abe Lincoln Amphitheatre. Stilwell commented that he would continue to work to get the money returned until the budget shows an increase in the funding.